

Appendix A

Marked-Up Version of Pending Claims

1. A method of generating a document comprising the steps of:
 - permitting access to a document creation system by an authorised user;
 - recording user data identifying the user;
 - generating document data defining a document;
 - generating verification data from the user data and the document data;
 - printing the document utilising the document data and the verification data, so that the document includes a machine readable portion usable to verify the authenticity thereof.
2. A method according to claim 1 including generating a user identification record and storing the record for comparison with the user data when a user attempts to access the document creation system.
3. A method according to claim 2 wherein the user data and the user identification comprise data from a fingerprint scanner or another biometric device.
4. A method according to [claims 1 to 3] claim 1 wherein the user data is derived from data stored on a portable data carrier, the user data being generated when a physical characteristic of the user matches data stored on the portable data carrier.
5. A method according to claim 4 wherein the portable data carrier is a smart card.

6. A method according to claim 4 wherein the physical characteristics of the user is a fingerprint or other biometric data.
7. A method according to claim 1 wherein the authentication data is stored in a document verification database.
8. A method according to claim 7 wherein the verification data takes the form of a bar code, symbol or other machine readable indicium.
9. A method according to claim 7 wherein the verification data is a printed symbol or code readable optically, and contains data which corresponds at least partially to the user data and the related document data contained in the authentication data which is stored in the document verification database.
10. A method according to claim 9 wherein the verification data comprises one or more of the following: details of an operator generating the document, date/time stamps, a unique document and/or institution code, partial or relevant details from the document, digital signature of the operator and/or competent authority, a digital certificate, a facial image of a relevant person; a digital image of a hand written signature, a fingerprint or other biometric data, or textual information.
11. A method according to [claim 9 or claim 10] claim 9 wherein the verification data is generated in an encrypted form.
12. A method of verifying the authenticity of a document generated by the method of any one of claims 1 to 11, the method including the steps of:

reading verification data from the document;

retrieving authentication data corresponding to the verification data and comparing the verification data with the authentication data; and

indicating that the document is authentic if the compared data matches.

13. A method according to claim 12 wherein the verification data is encrypted, the method including the step of decrypting the verification data read from the document.
14. A method according to [claim 12 or claim 13] claim 12 wherein the authentication data is retrieved from a central database in an on-line process.
15. A method according to claim 12 wherein the authentication data is data derived from the document itself or from the bearer thereof.
16. A system for generating documents comprising:
 - a document creation station operable by a user to input document data and to generate printed documents based on the document data;
 - access control means arranged to generate user data corresponding to an authorised user;
 - processor means for generating verification data derived from the document data and the user data, the verification data being applied to the printed document; and

a database for storing an authentication record corresponding to the verification data, for use in authentication of the document.

17. A system according to claim 16 including at least one document reading device for reading the verification data on a document, and processor means for comparing the verification data read from the document with authentication data.
18. A system according to claim 17 including communication means for transferring authentication data from the database, for comparison with the verification data read from the document.